IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re The Application of:)
    Silvano Gai et al.)
)
Serial No.: 09/535,810)   Examiner: Phuoc H. Nguyen
)
Filed: March 28, 2000)
)   Art Unit: 2143
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS)
    FOR HIGH-SPEED PARSING)
    OF NETWORK MESSAGES)
)

Cesari and McKenna, LLP
88 Black Falcon Avenue
Boston, MA 02210

"Express Mail" Mailing-Label Number:

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.131 OF CO-INVENTORS SILVANO GAI AND THOMAS J. EDSALL

We, Silvano Gai and Thomas J. Edsall, declare on the basis of personal knowledge as follows:

    1. We are the inventors of the subject matter of the present patent application.

    2. At all relevant times, we have been employed by Cisco Systems, Inc. and/or under an obligation to assign the present patent application to Cisco Technology, Inc.,

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170 West Tasman Drive, Building D, San Jose, CA 95134-1706, the assignee of the present application, which is a sister company of Cisco Systems, Inc.

3. We understand that certain claims of the present application stand rejected under U.S. Patent No. 6,591,331 to Khanna, which was filed on December 6, 1999, less than four months before the filing date of the present application.

4. As set forth herein, the subject matter claimed in the present application was conceived by us within the United States before December 6, 1999. Furthermore, since a date earlier than December 6, 1999 through at least March 28, 2000, the filing date of the present application, we diligently pursued a reduction to practice of the invention.

CONCEPTION

5. Attached hereto as Exhibit A is a true and correct copy of a detailed specification document, prepared by us, entitled "RegEx: Regular Expression Logic" that demonstrates conception of the invention prior to December 6, 1999. The actual dates of Exhibit A have been whited-out.

6. In particular, sections 4.2, 4.3, and 4.6 as well as Fig. 3 of Exhibit A, among others, demonstrate that we had conceived of a system and method for a decoder circuit configured to control an input to a CAM that includes a given network message or selected portion thereof.

DILIGENCE

7. During the time from before December 6, 1999 until at least March 28, 2000, we diligently worked on preparing a patent application directed to the present invention. Specifically, we provided detailed information of our invention to our patent

attorneys, and reviewed and commented upon one or more drafts of the patent application that was filed on March 28, 2000.

8.   On March 28, 2000, the present patent application, which has been assigned Application Serial No. 09/535,810, was filed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office.
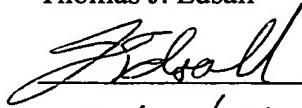
9.   As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under §1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of any patent that might issue on the present application.

Name: Silvano Gai

Signature: _____

Date: _____

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Name: Thomas J. Edsall

Signature: _____

Date: 7/28/04